

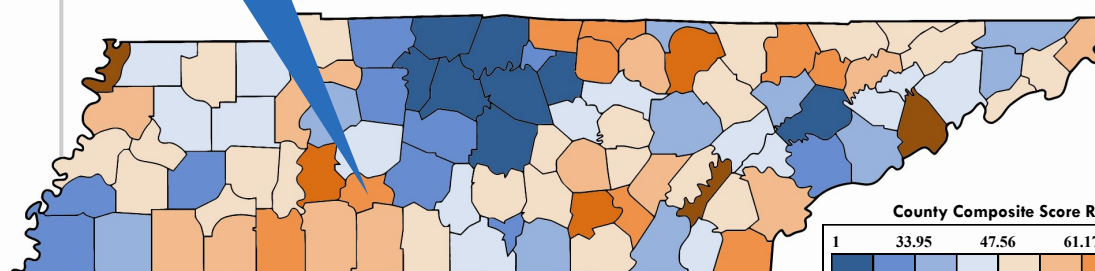
# The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties

## SNAPSHOT: LEWIS COUNTY

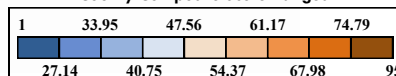
2012

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County Composite Score Ranges



Ranges defined as 0.5 standard deviations from the mean score of 47.56.

Population (2010): 11,367	Pop. Density: 41/square mile	Seat of Government: Hohenwald	Largest City: Hohenwald
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Down from 63rd

COUNTY	RANK	INDICATOR SCORES & RANKINGS	DATA	RANK
Overton	75	Employment and Earnings Composite	76.00	92 ▼
Hardeman	76	Median Annual Earnings for Full Time Employed Females*	\$24,175	90 ▼
McNairy	77	Wage Gap (Female Earnings as a Percentage of Male Earnings)	64.18%	92 ▼
Grainger	78	Female Labor Force Participation Rate (Ages 20-64)	68.4%	28 ▲
Houston	79	Female Unemployment Rate (Ages 20-64)	12.9%	89 ▲
Johnson	80	Percent of Management Occupations Held by Women	27.5%	81 ▼
Clay	81	Economic Autonomy Composite	54.63	65 ▼
Polk	82	Women-owned Businesses Percent of Total†	20.5%	73† ▼
Hardin	83	Percent of Females with 4-Year Degree or More (Age 25+)	11.2%	67 ▼
Lewis	84	Percent of Females with High School Diploma or Equivalent (Age 25+)	76.6%	58 ▼
Jackson	85	Female High School Dropout Rate	0.68%	82 ▲
Sequatchie	86	Percent of Women Uninsured (65 and under)	17.0%	66 ▼
Union	87	Percent of Females Below Poverty Level	19.6%	45 □
Campbell	88	Percent of Female-Headed Households with Children in Poverty*	45.2%	45 ▼
Macon	89	Rate of Pregnancy for Girls Age 15-19 per 1000*	0	1 ▲
Perry	90	<b>County Overview:</b> Lewis County women have made less than most Tennesseans since before 2000, and have continued to see wages struggle relative to their peers. Now the sixth lowest earners among women, and fourth lowest as a percentage of local male wages, local wages are one of the greatest expressions—and instigators—of the economic obstacles women face in Lewis. Add to this the seventh highest female unemployment in the state and some of the smallest rates of representation in management and business ownership, and it is clear why Lewis has dropped 21 ranks overall. Unfortunately, local men experience many of these problems as well.		
Fentress	91			
Grundy	92			
Cocke	93			

Note: all figures are based on estimates formed from sample data and are subject to sample error and rounding.

\* The American Community Survey (ACS) is an annual demographic survey of the U.S. It provides the detailed demographic, economic and housing data that was once supplied by the Decennial Census Long Form. The ACS has a smaller sample so combines several years' data to produce multi-year estimates. Due to the small sample size there is an increased margin of error in many less populated counties for this indicator.

\*\* The 2005 County by County figures were based on a sample of girls age 10-19, whereas the 2012 report reflects the population of girls age 15-19.

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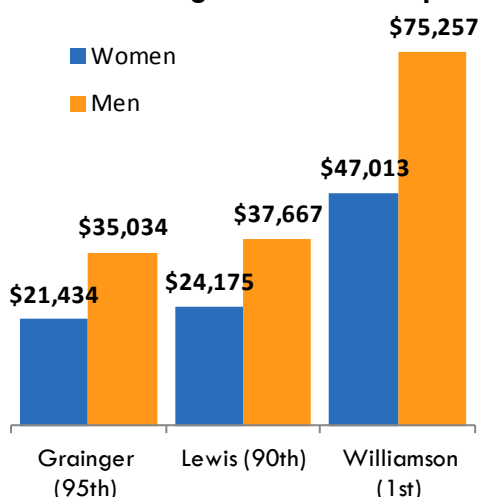
‡ Estimates are too unreliable or not available to be included in composite calculations. Any figure shown is an estimate for the reader's benefit only.

# The Status of Women in: Lewis County

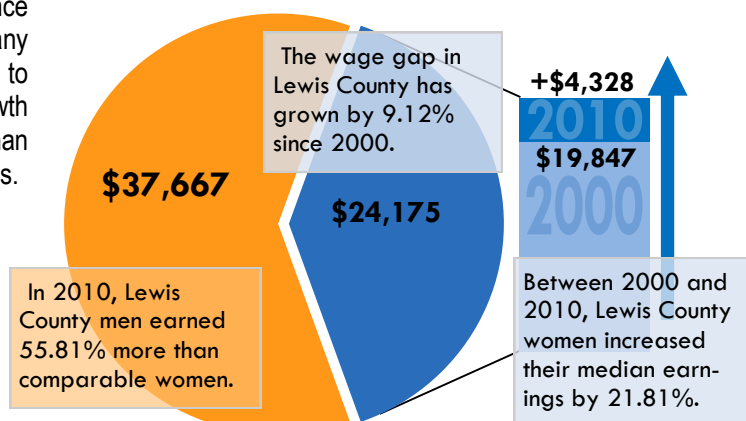
## ▼ Earnings

**L**ewis County women have seen a small increase of 21.81 percent in median income since 2000. When compared to the faster growth of many other counties, women in Lewis dropped from 76th to 90th between 2000 and 2010. Local income growth also fell behind the rate of inflation, and was more than 17 percent slower than income growth for local males.

### Median Earnings: Counties Compared



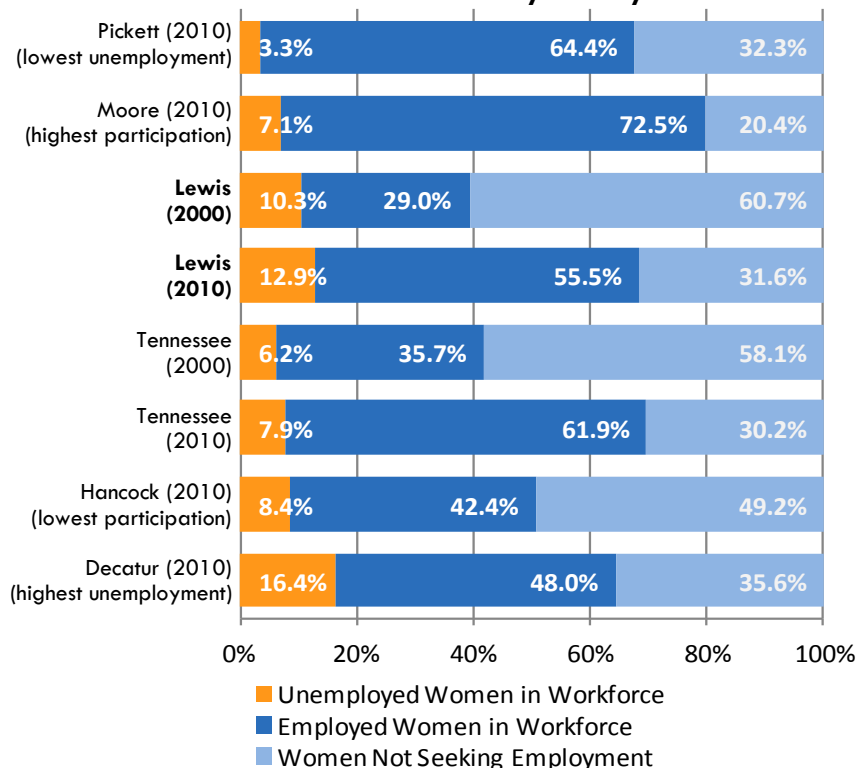
### Median Earnings and the Wage Gap, 2000-2010



**Largely** because women in Lewis County lagged so far behind local men in income gains, the wage gap between genders has widened by a significant 9.12 percent. As of 2010, local women earn just 64.18 percent of what their male counterparts receive and Lewis has plummeted in this indicator, from 36th to 92nd. This rate also compares poorly to the state estimate of 77 percent, and amounts to an estimated \$13,492 fewer dollars earned each year by women in Lewis County—one of the largest disparities in the Tennessee.

## ▼ Employment

### Workforce Access for Women By County and Year



**Workforce** participation among women in Lewis County has improved by 29.1 percent since 2000. With 68.4 percent of local women either employed or searching for work, Lewis improved substantially in this category, from 72nd to 28th.

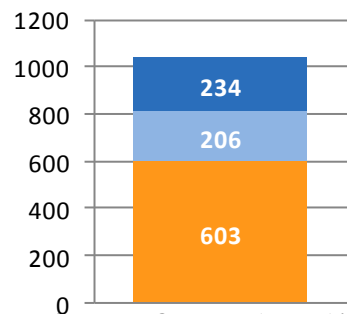
As of 2010, men were 8.4 percent more likely to participate in Lewis' labor pool, and women with children under six were estimated to participate at an even higher rate of 77.6 percent.

Just as local participation rates have improved in statewide rankings, Lewis County's female unemployment rate compares better in 2010 than in 2000. Previously second-worst in the state, Lewis has improved among its peers in the lower portion of rankings, from 84th to 89th. Unfortunately, this rate is still five percent higher than estimates for Tennessee women as a whole.

Estimates indicate that 17.7 percent of men and 10.6 percent of women with young children were seeking work in 2010.

# The Status of Women in: Lewis County

■ Female Owned ■ Joint-Owned  
■ Male Owned



Businesses Owners (2007)†

**Lewis** County women have maintained the same managerial presence since 2000. Filling 27.5 percent of such positions, women are now less likely to run businesses in Lewis than in most counties, having dropped from 40th to 81st as of 2010. This rate matched the statewide figure in 2000, but trailed in 2010, when 36 percent of managers were women.

Small samples sizes make it difficult to predict business ownership trends in Lewis County, but women were projected to control only one percent more of Lewis' businesses in 2007 than in 2000; resulting in a drop from 56th to 73rd in this measure.

## Women At Work

### Business Management

The incidence of women managers in Lewis County hovered around 27.5% between 2000 and 2010.

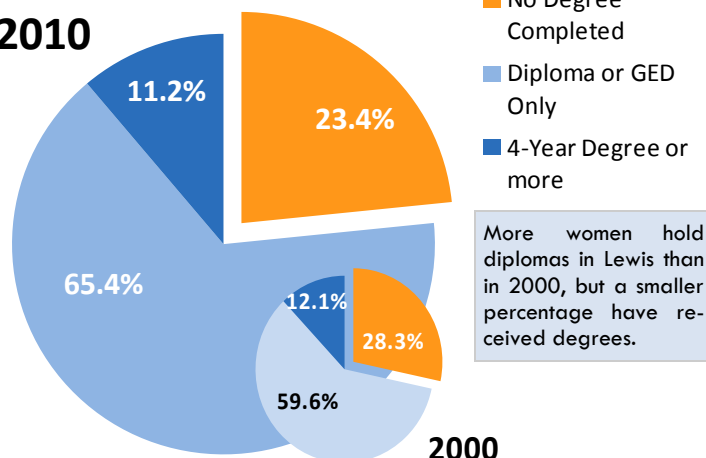
### Business Ownership†

The percentage of women business owners in 2007 is projected to have been 20.5%, up from 19.5% in 2000.

## Education

Educational Attainment Above Age 25

2010



More women hold diplomas in Lewis than in 2000, but a smaller percentage have received degrees.

**Women** continue to struggle academically in Lewis County, with generally poor results in statewide rankings since the year 2000.

The percentage of women holding four year degrees, for example, has actually decreased by 0.9 percent and fallen in this category's rankings from 27th to 67th.

In contrast, the percent of women holding diplomas did increase in Lewis, but by only 4.9 percent, and the county dropped 26 places to 58th.

The local dropout rate of 0.68 percent for girls was also an improvement, rising two spots in rankings, to 82nd, but continued to compare unfavorably to statewide rates, which reached 0.61 percent during the 2011-12 school year.

## Living

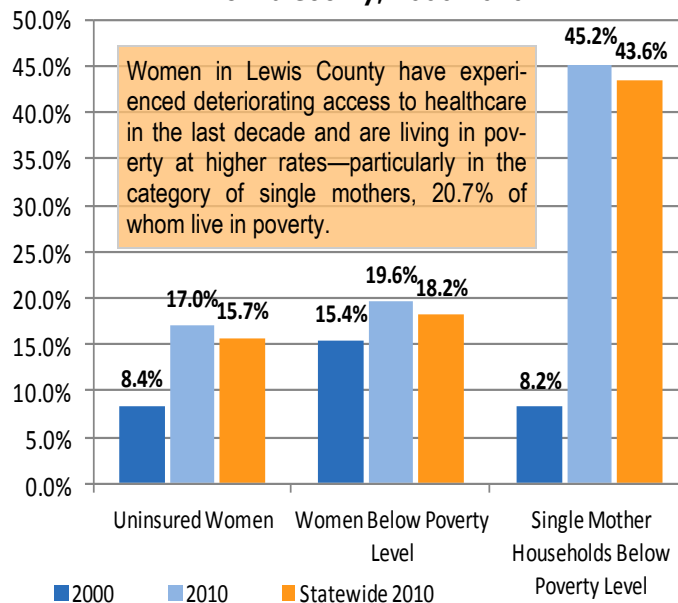
**Since** 2000, women in Lewis County have endured diminishing health care access and increases in poverty rates.

Of women in the county age 65 and under, over one in six were uninsured in 2010, doubling the rate from 2000. As a result, local women were 1.3 percent less likely to be insured than the average woman in Tennessee, and Lewis fell from 50th to 66th in this indicator.

Overall poverty among women has grown at a slower rate, increasing 4.2 percent between 2000 and 2010. Lewis also outpaced this state rate in 2010, by 4.2 percent. Despite this, the county held steady in relative rankings, at 45th.

Single mothers were much more acutely affected by statewide trends and were more than five times as likely to live in poverty in 2010 as in 2000. At a rate of 45.2 percent, single mothers are also more than twice as likely to live in poverty as the average woman in Tennessee or Lewis County. Lewis fell from 33rd to 45th in this indicator.

## Health and Poverty Indicators for Women: Lewis County, 2000-2010



Women in Lewis County have experienced deteriorating access to healthcare in the last decade and are living in poverty at higher rates—particularly in the category of single mothers, 20.7% of whom live in poverty.

# About the Council and this Report

The **Status of Women in Tennessee Counties** report offers an economic profile of women in each county of Tennessee and examines how women's rights and equality vary among the counties. The report presents data and overall rankings in two categories of women's economic status: employment and earnings and economic autonomy. Indicators of women's status in each category make up the composite rankings of the counties.

The employment and earnings section presents data on women's annual earnings, the earnings gender gap, female labor force participation rate, the female unemployment rate, and the percent of management occupations held by women.

The economic autonomy section includes information on the percentage of businesses owned by women, educational attainment levels, percentage of women with any kind of health insurance, percentage of women living in poverty and percentage of single female-headed households living in poverty, the female high school dropout rate and the teen pregnancy rate.

The **Tennessee Economic Council on Women** was created in 1998 by the Tennessee General Assembly to assess Tennessee women's economic status. The Council develops and advocates solutions to address women's needs in order to help women achieve economic autonomy. In setting its priorities, the Council selects issues that are timely and likely to result in positive changes for women.

Research & Authorship by:

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Visit the Economic Council on Women at [www.tennesseewomen.org](http://www.tennesseewomen.org)

SOURCES	
Employment and Earnings	
Median Annual Earnings for Full Time Employed Females	U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 'Selected Economic Characteristics' *
Wage Gap (Female Earnings as Percent of Male Earnings)	U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 'Selected Economic Characteristics'
Female Labor Force Participation Rate	U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 'Employment Status'
Female Unemployment Rate	U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 'Employment Status'
Percent of Management Occupations Held by Women	U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 'Occupation by Sex and Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months for Full-Time, Year-Round Civilian Employed Population, 16 year and older'
Economic Autonomy	
Women-Owned Businesses Percent of Total	U.S. Census Bureau, 2007 Survey of Business Owners 'Statistics for All U.S. Firms by Industry, Gender, Ethnicity, and Race...' † ‡
Percent of Females with 4-Yr Degree or More (Age 25+)	U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 'Educational Attainment'
Percent of Females with High School Diploma (Age 25+)	U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 'Educational Attainment'
Female High School Dropout Rate	Tennessee Department of Education, 2011-2012 School Year
Percent of Women Uninsured (65 or under)	U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates
Percent of Women Below Poverty Level	U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 'Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months'
Percent of Female-headed Households with Children in Poverty	U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 'Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months of Families' *
Rate of Pregnancy for Girls 15-19 (per 1000)	U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 'Fertility' *

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